

During the last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000) ONGC has acquired 118 Ground Line Kilometres (GLK) of 2D seismic data. Also ONGC has plans to acquire 332 GLK of 2D seismic data and drilling of two exploratory wells in the State during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02. Additionally, Directorate General of hydrocarbons (DGH) has a proposal to carry out Aeromagnetic surveys, of about 28000 Line Kilometres, in the Himalayn foothill regions, covering parts of the States of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, in the near future.

Restriction on sale of Solvent and Naphtha to prevent adulteration

94. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have restricted the sale, acquisition, storage of solvents and naphtha in an attempt to prevent adulteration of petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether the Naphtha and solvents are freely mixed in petrol and diesel by petrol pump owners in the country;

(c) if so, whether the system to check adulteration of Naphtha or solvent is not effective; and

(d) if so, to what extent steps would be taken to ensure availability of petrol and diesel free from any type of adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) To check the adulteration of automobile fuels viz. Motor Spirit (MS) and High Speed diesel (HSD) by adulterants like Naphtha, Solvent, Reffinate and Slop, the Government have promulgated the Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Order, 2000 and the Naphtha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Order, 2000 under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Further to check the adulteration and malpractices, the oil marketing companies carry out regular/ surprise checks of retail outlets, to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time check malpractices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.